

dispensaries and the State Governments for encouraging/motivating doctors to prescribe generic medicines to the maximum extent possible.

**Testing of cosmetics on animals**

3805. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether cosmetics are being tested on animals in India, before these are launched in the market;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is proposed to ban this ill-conceived practice;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether such practice has since been banned in other advanced countries; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (f) The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) under the Department of Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution is the nodal authority for developing the standards of cosmetics. The BIS has informed that under the Indian Standards on Cosmetics formulated by it, the cosmetic products are likely to be safe and such products may not warrant any safety testing. The BIS has also denied any information about testing on animals in this regard. The BIS has also informed that it is working towards harmonizing the standards with international practices for elimination of animal testing for cosmetics.

**Guidelines for food manufacturing companies**

3806. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has issued any guidelines for food manufacturing companies;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;